

## WILDLIFE HABITAT INCENTIVES PROGRAM (WHIP)

### ***Estimated Project Cost:***

*\$200,000*

### **DESCRIPTION:**

- Program has been active in the Russian River watershed since 1998
- Administered by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NCRS)
- Funded through the Farm Bill
- Provides up to 75% of the cost to install conservation projects to improve wildlife habitat
- Eligible projects must be included in site-specific conservation plan prepared by the property owner and approved by NCRS
- Local projects planned or implemented have included cost-share incentive payments to restore and stabilize riparian corridors and establish upland perennial grass and tree plantings
- Projects have included drip irrigation systems for restoration; bioremediation; stream bank restoration; re-establishment of native grasses, trees and shrubs; and riparian protection fencing
- Water quality has been improved by providing off-site benefits with reduced soil erosion and reduced transport of sediments and other pollutants into surface waters

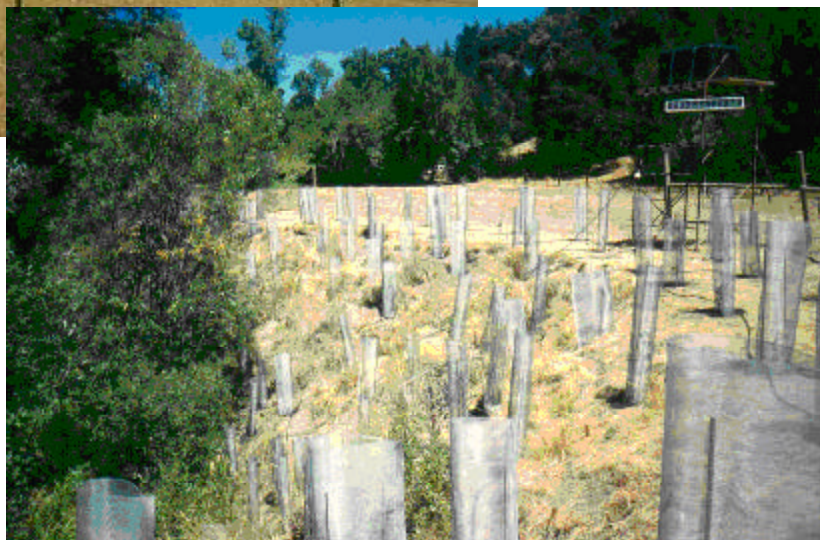
### **PROJECT GOAL**

*Encourage the establishment of high quality wildlife habitat on private lands in the Russian River watershed.*

### **POTENTIAL PARTNERSHIPS:**

- California Department of Fish and Game
- California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
- Goldridge Resource Conservation District
- Mendocino County Resource Conservation District
- Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program
- Sonoma County Water Agency
- Sotoyome Resource Conservation District
- University of California Cooperative Extension
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

## **WILDLIFE HABITAT INCENTIVES PROGRAM (WHIP)**



**WHIP projects have included riparian protection fencing and re-establishment of native trees**